(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been empowered to decide on proposals for setting up of private airstrips for private use subject to prescribed guidelines.

MRO facility at Hyderabad

312. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lufthansa and Hawker Pacific have evinced their interest and submitted proposal for setting up of MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether these companies have proposed to set up MRO for various types of aircraft or are they going to set up MRO only for Boeings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Cost of ATF

313. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is very high in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the mounting losses suffered by public as well as private airlines, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has called on Government to take steps to reduce ATF cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) ATF prices for domestic operations in India are approximately 60-70% higher than the international benchmark. Details of the amount being paid by the domestic and international airline per kilolitre at four metro cities in India are as follows:-

Station	For Domestic Operation Rs./Kilolitre	For International Operation Equivalent Rs./KL
1	2	3
Delhi	59,650.08	45,583.02

1	2	3
Mumbai	61,834.80	45,310.86
Kolkata	69,005.91	47,315.94
Chennai	65,499.44	45,444.42

(c) and (d) This Ministry has received requests from various airlines and concerned organization for reducing taxes on ATF.

(e) State Governments have been requested to consider moderation of the rate of sales tax imposed on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and align it with the 'Declared Goods' rate of 4%. Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was also requested to consider moderation of the rate of sales tax imposed on ATF and reduce it to the 'Declared Goods' rate of 4%. The matter of ATF was also discussed in the national conference on Civil Aviation held on 18.1.2008 at New Delhi with the representatives of all State Governments and Union Territories. Based on the deliberations held in the Conference, a group of officers has been constituted with a view to present the ATF taxation issues to the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers as well as the Ministry of Finance.

Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have since reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Rajasthan has also reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4% in certain cases.

Government of Maharashtra has also reduced Sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

The matter of high price of ATF was also discussed in the meeting of the Committee constituted to examine various issues relating to the current financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines.

Difficulties of passengers at Delhi Airport

314. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to make certain changes in the Operation Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) signed between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Delhi International Airports Ltd. (DIAL) to end the difficulties being faced by passengers at the airport undergoing renovation;

(b) whether his Ministry also proposes to remove huge shortage of Immigration staff by recruiting non-police/non-intelligence persons well versed in scrutiny of documents and use of associated software;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.